

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-33. (canceled)

Claim 34. (previously presented) A process for maturing dendritic cells, comprising:

- (a) isolating mononuclear cells from blood
- (b) culturing said mononuclear cells, together with hyaluronic acid fragments, in order to cause said mononuclear cells to mature irreversibly into said dendritic cells,

wherein each of said hyaluronic acid fragments is from 2,000-5,000 Da.

Claim 35. (canceled)

Claim 36. (previously presented) The process of claim 34, wherein said mononuclear cells are isolated from a leukocyte concentrate using a density gradient.

Claim 37. (previously presented) The process of claim 36, wherein said density gradient is a Ficoll density gradient.

Claim 38. (previously presented) The process of claim 34, wherein said mononuclear cells possess a CD14 surface marker and are further concentrated, after isolation from said leukocyte concentrate, using an antibody that is directed against said CD14 surface marker.

Claim 39. (previously presented) The process of claim 34, wherein said mononuclear cells possess a CD14 surface marker and are cultured in a medium that contains GM-CSF at a concentration from 5,000 to 10,000 U/mL and IL-4 at a concentration from 100 to 1,000 U/mL.

Claim 40. (previously presented) The process of claim 34, wherein said hyaluronic acid fragments each contain from 1 to 10 aminodisaccharides.

Claim 41. (previously presented) The process of claim 34, wherein said mononuclear cells possess a CD14 surface marker and are cultured for 72 hours to 7 days in a medium containing GM-CSF and IL-4.

Claim 42. (previously presented) The process of claim 34, wherein said mononuclear cells are cultured together with said hyaluronic acid fragments for at least 48 hours.

Claim 43. (previously presented) The process of claim 34, wherein said hyaluronic acid fragments are chemically modified.

Claims 44-56. (canceled)

Claim 57. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising dendritic cells prepared by:

- (a) isolating mononuclear cells from blood
- (b) culturing said mononuclear cells, together with hyaluronic acid fragments, in order to cause said mononuclear cells to mature irreversibly into said dendritic cells,

wherein each of said hyaluronic acid fragments is from 2,000-5,000 Da.

Claims 58-59. (canceled)

Claim 60. (previously presented) The process of claim 34, wherein said hyaluronic acid fragments are present at a concentration of 30 to 50  $\mu$ g/ml.

Claim 61. (currently amended) The **pharmaceutical** composition of claim 57, further comprising [[a]] an pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.